



State Senator

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VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-southern Ingham counties

GOVERNMENT IN FOCUS: Utilities

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If you would like more information about pending legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org

Numerous publications are available through the State. Topics include landlord and tenant concerns, veterans' issues, long term planning assistance and much more! To request a publication, please visit www.michigan.gov/garcia

Senate Bill 612 to be signed by the governor

Residents who were concerned that they would have to find alternative ways to have their appliances repaired will no longer have to worry thanks to a bill that has passed the Senate. Senate Bill 612, or the "Utility Appliance Service and Repair bill," will allow utility companies to continue to offer appliance repair programs. The legislation denotes that the companies must create a separate department for personnel involved with the appliance repairs program, keep separate books (that must be made available to the Public Service Commission) and not promote the program in statement inserts or other communication included with the utility's regulated business.

Many senior citizens in the state took advantage of such programs because of their limited incomes. Utility businesses offered reliable services that may have not been affordable if they weren't contracted to through these programs. Thanks to the passage of SB 612, seniors can continue to utilize this service. The legislation is now awaiting the governor's signature.

ATTENTION....HIPPA Law Concerns

It has been brought to Senator Garcia's attention that there have been concerns relative to the legality of the forms within the "Peace of Mind" booklet (published by the State Bar of Michigan). This publication has been distributed by the state at health fairs and senior centers for a number of years.

The concern of many individuals utilizing the publication is whether or not the forms found in the book comply with the recent HIPPA laws. Per representatives from the State Bar of Michigan, the forms in question continue to be accepted and are in compliance with all regulations and laws.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of the Peace of Mind booklet, please feel free to call Senator Garcia's office at 1-800-516-0026.

www.senate.michigan.gov/garcia